

# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

ELEVENTH  
EDITION



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**graftiti** *n* [It. pl. of *graffito*] (1945): usu. unauthorized writing or drawing on a public surface

**usage** *Graffiti*, which also serves as the plural of *graffito*, is commonly used as a singular mass noun (*graffiti*... was depressing people who rode the subways — *New Yorker*). *Graffiti* comes in various styles — S. established as the mass-noun use of *data*. Use of *graffiti* as a singular count noun is still quite rare and is not standard.

**graft** *vt* [grā-fē(-tō), grā-, grā-, *n* pl -tī] [It. incised inscription, fr. inscription or drawing made on some public surface (as a rock or wall); also: a message or slogan written as or as if as a graffito — *graf-flit-tist* *v* (-tist) *n*]

**graft** *vt* [ME *graffe*, *grafe*, fr. AF *greffe*, *grafe* *stylus*, *graph*, fr. ML *graphium*, fr. L *stylus*, fr. Gk *graphein*, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (14c) 1 a: a grafted plant b: SCION 1 c: the point of insertion of a scion upon a stock 2 a: the act of grafting b: something grafted; *specif*: living tissue used in grafting

**graft** *vt* (14c) 1 a: to cause (a scion) to unite with a stock; also: to unite (plants or scion and stock) to form a graft b: to propagate (a plant) by grafting 2 a: to join or unite as if by grafting b: to attach (a chemical unit) to a main molecular chain 3: to implant (living tissue) surgically ~ *vt* 1: to become grafted 2: to perform grafting — **graft-er** *n*

**graft** *n* [IS dial. *graft*, vb., to work] (1853) chiefly Brit

**graft** [origin unknown] *vt* (1859): to get (illicit gain) by graft ~ *vi*: to practice graft

**graft** *n* (1865): the acquisition of gain (as money) in dishonest or questionable ways; also: illegal or unfair gain

**graft-age** *grāf-tij* *n* (ca. 1895): the principles and practice of grafting

**graft-versus-host disease** *n* (1965): a potentially fatal bodily condition that results when T cells from a tissue or organ transplant and esp. a bone marrow transplant react immunologically against the recipient's antigens attacking cells and tissues

**gra-ham crack-er** *grā-m* *n* [*Graham flour*] (1882): a slightly sweet cracker made of whole wheat flour

**graham flour** *n* [Sylvester Graham †1851 Am. dietary reformer] (1834): whole wheat flour

**grail** *grāl* *n* [ME *grail*, *grail*, fr. MF, bowl, *grail*, fr. ML *gradalis*] 1 a: the cup or platter used according to medieval legend by Christ at the Last Supper and thereafter the object of knightly quests 2: the object of an extended or difficult quest

**grain** *grān* *n* [ME, partly fr. AF *grain* cereal grain, fr. L *granum*; partly fr. AF *graine* seed, *graine*, fr. L *grana*, pl. of *granum* — more at *CORN*] (14c) 1 a (1) *obs*: a single small hard seed (2) a seed or fruit of a cereal grass: CARYOPHYTE b: the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean) c: plants producing grain 2 a (1) a small hard particle or crystal (2) any of the particles produced in grains in the aggregate (3) an individual crystal in a metal b: a minute portion or particle c: the least amount possible (a ~ of truth) 3 a: kermes or a scarlet dye made from it b: cochineal or a brilliant scarlet dye made from it c: a fast dye d *archaic*: COLOR, side of a skin or hide 5: a unit of weight based on the weight of a grain of wheat taken as an average of the weight of grains from the middle of the ear — see *WEIGHT* table 6 a: the stratification of the wood fibers in a piece of wood b: a texture due to constituent particles or fibers (the ~ of a rock) c: the direction of threads in cloth

7: tactile quality 8 a: natural disposition: TEMPER (lying goes against my ~) b: a basic or characteristic quality c: a prevalent ideology or convention (teaching against the ~) — **grained** *grānd* *adj* — **grain-less** *adj*

**grain** *vt* (1530) 1: INORAIN 2: to form into grains: GRANULATE 3: to paint in imitation of the grain of wood or stone 4: to feed with grain ~ *vt*: to become granular: GRANULATE — **grain-er** *n*

**grain alcohol** *n* (1833): ETHANOL

**grain elevator** *n* (1852): a building for elevating, storing, discharging, and sometimes processing grain

**grain of salt** (1647): a skeptical attitude

**grains of paradise** (15c): the pungent seeds of a West African plant (*Amomum melegueta*) of the ginger family that are used as a spice

**grain sorghum** *n* (1920): any of several sorghums cultivated primarily for grain — compare *SORGO*

**grainy** *grā-nē* *adj* *grain-i-er*, -est (15c) 1: resembling or having some characteristic of grain: not smooth or fine 2 of a photograph appearing to be composed of grain-like particles — **grain-i-ness** *n*

**grain** *n* [obs. Pg (now spelled *grão*), grain, fr. L *granum*] (1702) any of several leguminous plants (as a chickpea) grown esp. for their seeds also: their seeds

**gram** *grām* *n* [F *gramme*, fr. LL *gramma*, a small weight, fr. Gk *gramma*, *gramma* letter, writing, a small weight, fr. *graphein* to write — more at *CARVE*] (1810) 1: a metric unit of mass equal to 1/1000 kilogram and nearly equal to the mass of one cubic centimeter of water at maximum density — see *METRIC SYSTEM* table 2: the weight of a body under the acceleration of gravity

**gram** *vt* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1934): GRANDMOTHER

**gram** *n* [comb form L *gramma*, fr. Gk, fr. *gramma*]: drawing: writing

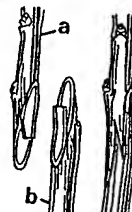
**gram** (chronogram) (telegram)

**gramme** *grā-mē* *n* [Sp, fr. L *gramma*, pl. of *gramen* grass] (1828): any of the pasture grasses (genus *Bouteloua*) of the western U.S.

**gram-atomic weight** *n* (1927): the mass of one mole of an element in grams to the atomic weight — called also *gram-atom*

**gram-equivalent** *n* (ca. 1897): the quantity of an element, group, or compound that has a mass in grams equal to the equivalent weight

**grace** *grā-sē* *interj* [ME *grand mercy*, fr. AF *grand merci* thanks] (14c) *archaic* — used to express gratitude or surprise



graft to: a scion, b stock

**gram-i-cl-din** *grā-mā-sī-dīn* *n* [*gram*-positive + *-i-* + *-cide* + *-in*] (1940): any of several toxic crystalline polypeptide antibiotics produced by a soil bacterium (*Bacillus brevis*) and used against gram-positive bacteria in local infections

**gram-i-n-e-ous** *grā-mī-nē-əs* *adj* [L *gramineus*, fr. *gramin-*, *gramen* grass] (ca. 1658): of or relating to a grass

**gram-i-niv-o-rous** *grā-mā-nī-vō(-rəs)* *adj* [L *gramin-*, *gramen*] (1739) feeding on grass or the seeds of grass (~ locusts) (~ birds)

**gram-mar** *grā-mar* *n* [ME *gramere*, fr. AF *gramaire*, modif. of L *grammatica*, fr. Gk *grammatikē*, fr. fem. of *grammatikos* of letters, fr. *gramma*, *gramma* — more at *GRAM*] (14c) 1 a: the study of the classes of words, their inflections, and their functions and relations in the sentence b: a study of what is to be preferred and what avoided in inflection and syntax 2 a: the characteristic system of inflections and syntax of a language b: a system of rules that defines the grammatical structure of a language 3 a: a grammar textbook b: speech or writing evaluated according to its conformity to grammatical rules 4: the principles or rules of an art, science, or technique (a ~ of the theater); also: a set of such principles or rules — **gram-mar-i-an** *grā-*

**mer-e-on *n***

**grammar school** *n* (14c) 1 a: a secondary school emphasizing Latin and Greek in preparation for college b: a British college preparatory school 2: a school intermediate between primary school and high school 3: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**gram-mat-i-cal** *grā-mā-tī-kəl* *adj* (1530) 1: of or relating to grammar 2: conforming to the rules of grammar (a ~ sentence) — **gram-mat-i-cal-i-ty** *grā-mā-tī-kā-lē-tē* *n* — **gram-mat-i-cal-ly** *grā-mā-tī-kā-lē* *adv* — **gram-mat-i-cal-ness** *grā-mā-tī-kā-lē-s* *n*

**grammatical meaning** *n* (1769): the part of meaning that varies from one inflectional form to another (as from *plays* to *played* to *playing*) — compare *LEXICAL MEANING*

**gramme** *grā-mē* *n* [fr. *GRAM*]

**gram molecular weight** *n* (ca. 1902): the mass of one mole of a compound equal in grams to the molecular weight — called also *gram-molecule*

**Gram-my** *grā-mē* *service mark* — used for the annual presentation of a statuette for notable achievement in the recording industry

**gram-neg-a-tive** *grā-mē-nē-gā-tīv* *adj* (1907): not holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

**gram-o-phone** *grā-mō-fōn* *n* [fr. *Gramophone*, a trademark] (1887) PHONOGRAPH

**grams** *grām(p)s* or **gramp** *grāmp* *n*, pl *gramps* [by shortening & alter.] (ca. 1900): GRANDFATHER 1 a

**gram-pos-i-tive** *grā-m-pā-zī-tīv*, -*pā-zī-tīv* *adj* (1907): holding the purple dye when stained by Gram's stain — used chiefly of bacteria

**gram-pus** *grā-m-pəs* *n* [alter. of ME *graspay*, *grapay*, fr. AF *graspay*, fr. *gras* fat (fr. L *crassus*) + *peis* fish, fr. L *piscis* — more at *CRASS*, *FISH*] (ca. 1529) 1: a dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) of temperate and tropical seas; also: any of various small cetaceans 2: the giant whip scorpion (*Mastigoproctus giganteus*) of the southern U.S.

**Gram's stain** *grām-z* or **Gram stain** *grām-z* *n* [Hans C. J. Gram †1938 Dan. physician] (1903) 1: a method for the differential staining of bacteria by treatment with a watery solution of iodine and the iodide of potassium after staining with a triphenylmethane dye (as crystal violet) — called also *Gram's method* 2: the chemicals used in Gram's stain

**gram-var-i-able** *grām-ver-ē-ə-bəl* *adj* (1956): staining irregularly or inconsistently by Gram's stain

**gran** *grān* *n* (1863): GRANDMOTHER 1

**grana** *pl* of *GRANUM*

**gran-a-dil-la** *grā-nā-dī-lā*, -*dē(-yā)* *n* [Sp, dim. of *granada* pomegranate, fr. LL *granata* — more at *GRENADE*] (1613) 1: any of various usu. egg-shaped to football-shaped passion fruits (esp. of *Passiflora quadrangularis* and *P. edulis*) that have juicy aromatic pulp: a passion-flower that produces granadillas

**grana-ry** *grā-nā-rē*, -*grā-n*, pl -*ries* [L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain] (1570) 1 a: a storehouse for threshed grain b: a region producing grain in abundance 2: a chief source or storehouse

**grand** *grānd* *adj* [AF *grant*, *grand*, large, great, *grand*, fr. L *grandis*] (1548) 1 a: having more importance than others: FOREMOST b: having higher rank than others bearing the same general designation (the ~ champion) 2 a: INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE (the ~ total amount) 3: CHIEF, PRINCIPAL 4: large and striking in size, scope, ex-ent, or conception (~ design) 5 a: LAVISH, SUMPTUOUS (a ~ celebration) b: marked by a regal form and dignity c: fine or imposing in appearance or impression d: LOFTY, SUBLIME (writing in the ~ style) 6 a: pretending to social superiority: SUPERBILIOUS b: INFUL (a ~ time) — **grand-ly** *grānd(-lē)* *adv* — **grand-ness** *grānd(-nəs)* *n*

**SYN** GRAND, MAGNIFICENT, IMPOSING, STATELY, MAJESTIC, GRANDIOSITY mean large and impressive. GRAND adds to greatness of size the implications of handsomeness and dignity (a *grand* staircase). MAGNIFICENT implies an impressive largeness proportionate to scale without sacrifice of dignity or good taste (*magnificent* paintings). IMPOSING implies great size and dignity but esp. stresses impressiveness (an imposing edifice). STATELY may suggest poised dignity, erectness of bearing, handsomeness of proportions, ceremonious deliberation of movement (the *stately* procession). MAJESTIC combines the implications of IMPOSING and STATELY and usu. adds a suggestion of solemn grandeur (a *majestic* waterfall). GRANDIOSITY implies a size or scope exceeding ordinary experience (*grandiose* hydroelectric projects) but is most commonly applied derogatorily to inflated pretension or absurd exaggeration (*grandiose* schemes).

**grand** *n* (1840) 1: GRAND PIANO 2 pl *grand slang*: a thousand dollars

la) about | la) kitten, F table | la) further | la) ash | la) ace | la) mop, mar  
la) sing | la) go | la) law | la) boy | la) thin | la) the | la) foot | la) foot  
la) yet | la) vision, beige | la) a, cc, ve, 7 see Guide to Pronunciation

**chaku** [Jp dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain  
**nun-cla-ture** \nun(t)-sə-čhūr, 'nūn(t)-, -chər, -tyūr, -tūr/ *n* [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a *nuncio* 2 : the office or period of office of a *nuncio*  
**nun-clo** \nun(t)-sə-č, 'nūn(t)-/ *n*, pl -cl-əs [It, fr. L *nuntius* messenger, *nuncio*] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government  
**nun-cle** \nun-kəl/ *n* [by alter. (fr. misdivision of *an uncle*)] (ca. 1589) chiefly dial : **UNCLE**  
**nun-cu-pa-tive** \nun-kyū-pā-tiv, 'nəp-, 'nən-kyū-pə-/ *adj* [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. L *nuncupatus*, pp. of *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at **NAMB**, **HEAVE**] (1546) : not written : **ORAL** (a ~ will)  
**nun-ery** \nun-rē, 'nə-nə-/ *n*, pl -ner-les (14c) : a convent of nuns  
**nun-ice** \nun-ik, 'mām/ *n* [Vietnamese *nước mắm*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine  
**nup-er** \nu-əp-/ *n*, pl *Nupe* or *Nupes* (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also : the language of the Nupe people  
**nup-tial** \nəp-shəl, -chəl, +shə-wəl, +chə-wəl/ *adj* [L *nuptialis*, fr. *nuptia*, pl. wedding, fr. *nubere* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, *nymphē*] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (~ flight)  
**nuptial** *n* (ca. 1555) : **MARRIAGE**, **WEDDING** — usu. used in pl.  
**nup-tial-ty** \nəp-shē-ə-lə-tē, -chē-/ *n*, pl -ties (1899) : the marriage rate  
**nur-istan** \nur-ə-'stā-nē, 'nyūr-/ *n* [Turistan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristanis that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian  
**nurse** \nɜrs/ *n* [ME *norice*, *norice*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nurticia*, fr. L, fem. of *nurticus* nourishing — more at **NUTRITIOUS**] (13c) 1 a : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : **WET NURSE** b : a woman who takes care of a young child : **DRY NURSE** 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; *specif.* : a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare **LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE**, **REGISTERED NURSE** 4 a : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or a bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another  
**nurse** *v* (14c) : **NURSE** *n* *intransitive* to suckle, nourish, contr. of *nurture* *v* (14c) 1 a : to nourish at the breast : **SUCKLE** b : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : **REAR**, **EDUCATE** 3 a : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (nursed the business through hard times) (nursed a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 a : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (~ a grievance) 6 a : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (~ a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (~ a cup of coffee) vi 1 a : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast : **SUCK** 2 : to act or serve as a nurse — **nurse-er** *n*  
**nurse-maid** \nɜrs-mād/ *n* (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children  
**nurse-mid-wife** \nɜrs-mīd-wīf/ *n* (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — **nurse-mid-wife-ry** \nɜrs-mīd-wīf-ē-ri, -wī-/ *n*  
**nurse-prac-ti-tion-er** \prāk-ti-sh(ə)-nɜr/ *n* (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician  
**nurse-ry** \nɜrs-rē, 'nɜrs-/ *n*, pl -er-les (14c) 1 obs : attentive care : **POSTERAGE** 2 a : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : **DAY NURSERY** 3 a : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for  
**nurse-ry-man** \mən/ *n* (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale  
**nursery rhyme** *n* (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story  
**nursery school** *n* (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years  
**nurse's aide** *n* (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)  
**nurse shark** *n* [alter. of *nurse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family *Ginglymostomatidae*); esp. : a shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters  
**nursing** *n* (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)  
**nursing home** *n* (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly  
**nurs-ling** \nɜrs-līŋ/ *n* (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child  
**nur-tur-ance** \nur-cha-rən(t)s/ *n* (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention — **nur-tur-ant** \nur-ənt/ *adj*  
**nur-ture** \nur-čər/ *n* [ME *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurture*, fr. LL *nurtura* act of nursing, fr. L *nurtus*, pp. of *nurire* to suckle, nourish — more at **NOURISH**] (14c) 1 : **TRAINING**, **UPBRINGING** 2 : something that nourishes : **FOOD** 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism  
**nurture** *v* \nur-tured, nur-turing/ *nur-čə-/* (15c) 1 : to supply with nourishment 2 : **EDUCATE** 3 : to further the development of : **POSTER** — **nur-tur-er** \nur-čər-/ *n*  
**nurt** \nur-/ *n* [ME *nute*, *note*, fr. OE *hnutu*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to L *nux* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 a : a hard problem or undertaking b : **CORE**, **HEART** 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small lump (as of butter) 6 a : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : **ENTHUSIAST** (a movie ~) 7 pl : **NONSENSE** — often used interjectionally 8 *slang* : a person's head 9 *usu. vulgar* : **TESTIS** 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : **EN 1** — *nut-like* \-līk/ *adj*  
**nut** *v* \nut-/ *nut-ling* (1604) : to gather or seek nuts  
**nut-late** \nut-lāt, 'nyū-/ *v* *nut-late*; *nu-tat-ing* (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation  
**nut-ta-tion** \nut-tā-shən, nyū-/ *n* [L *nutation*, *nutatio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at **NUMEN**] (1612) 1 *archaic* : the act of nodding the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : **WOBBLE** 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — **nu-ta-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ *adj*  
**nut-brown** \nut-'braŋ/ *adj* (14c) : of the color of a brown nut  
**nut-case** \-kās/ *n* (1959) : **NUT** 6a  
**nut-crack-er** \-krə-kər/ *n* (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts  
**nut-gall** \-gəl/ *n* (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; esp. : such a gall produced on oaks  
**nut grass** *n* (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also : a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)  
**nut-hatch** \nut-'hach/ *n* [ME *notehache*, fr. *note* nut + *hache*; akin to OE *tohaccian* to hack — more at **HACK**] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family *Sittidae* and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap  
**nut-house** \nut-'hauz/ *n* (1900) *slang* : a mental hospital  
**nut-let** \nut-lət/ *n* (1856) 1 a : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet  
**nut-meg** \nut-'meg, -mæg/ *n* [ME *notemigge*, *notemuge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz muscada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. L *nuc-*, *nux*) + *muscada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at **MUSCAT**] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans* of the family *Myristicaceae*, the nutmeg family) native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare **MACE** 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg  
**nut-pick** \nut-'pīk/ *n* (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts  
**nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal** also **nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal** \nu-'trə-'sū-ti-kəl/ *n* [*nutritive* + *pharmaceutical*] (1900) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value  
**nu-tri-tion** \nu-'tri-shən, nyū-/ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp. *otter*, modif. of L *nutra*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America  
**nut-ri-ent** \nu-'trē-ənt, 'nyū-/ *adj* [L *nutrient*, *nutriens*, pp. of *nutrire* to nourish — more at **NOURISH**] (1650) : furnishing nourishment  
**nut-ri-ment** \nu-'trē-mənt, 'nyū-/ *n* [ME, fr. L *nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life  
**nu-tri-tion-al** \nu-'tri-shənəl, -tri-shə-nəl/ *adj* — **nu-tri-tion-al-ly** *adv*  
**nu-tri-tion-ist** \nu-'tri-sh(ə)-nīst/ *n* (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition  
**nu-tri-tious** \nu-'tri-shəs, nyū-/ *adj* [L *nutriticus*, fr. *nutric-*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at **NOURISH**] (1665) : **NOURISHING** — **nu-tri-tious-ly** *adv* — **nu-tri-tious-ness** *n*  
**nu-tri-tive** \nu-'trē-tiv, 'nyū-/ *adj* (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : **NOURISHING** — **nu-tri-tive-ly** *adv*  
**nutritive ratio** *n* (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration  
**nuts** \nuts/ *adj* (1785) 1 : **ENTHUSIASTIC**, **KEEN** (~ for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : **INSANE**, **CRAZY** (said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)  
**nuts and bolts** *n* (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — **nuts-and-bolts** *adj*  
**nut-sedge** \nut-'sedj/ *n* (ca. 1909) : **NUT GRASS**  
**nut-shell** \nut-'shell/ *n* (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope — **In a nutshell** : in a very brief statement  
**nut-ter** \nut-tər/ *n* (1958) *slang Brit* : **NUT** 6a  
**nut-ty** \nut-tē/ *adj* *nut-ti-er*, -est (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts 2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : **ECCENTRIC**, **SILLY**; also : mentally unbalanced — **nut-ti-ly** \-tē-lē/ *adv* — **nut-ti-ness** *n*  
**Nuu-Chah-Nulth** also **Nuu Chah Nulth** \nu-'chā-nūth/ *n*, pl **Nuu-Chah-Nulth** also **Nuu Chah Nulth** [Nootka *nuč̓aɬ*, lit., all along the mountains] (1979) : **NOOTKA**  
**nux vom-i-ca** \nʌks-'vəm-kə/ *n*, pl **nux vomica** [NL, lit., emetic nut] (14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Strychnos nuxvomica* of the family *Loganiaceae*) of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica



nutcracker

\ə/ *but* \ˈf/ *kitten*, *F* table \ər/ *further* \ə/ *ash* \ā/ *ace* \ā/ *mop*, *mar* \ād/ *out* \ch/ *chin* \e/ *bet* \ē/ *easy* \ə/ *go* \ā/ *hit* \ī/ *ice* \ī/ *job* \ə/ *sing* \ə/ *go* \ə/ *law* \ā/ *boy* \ō/ *thin* \th/ *the* \ū/ *loot* \ū/ *foot* \y/ *yet* \zh/ *vision*, *beige* \k, ʰ, ʰ, ʰ, ʰ/ *see* Guide to Pronunciation



**ve-da-lia** \vī-dāl-yə\ *n* [NL, genus name] (1889): an Australian ladybug (*Rodolia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also **vedalla beetle**

**Ve-dan-ta** \vā-dān-tə, vō-, -dān-\ *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit., end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to OE *ende* end] (1788): an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — **Ve-dan-tism** \vā-dān-tī-zəm, -dān-\ *n* — **Ve-dan-tist** \vā-dān-tist, -dān-\ *n*

**Ve-dan-tic** \vā-dān-tik, -dān-\ *adj* (1882): 1: of or relating to the Vedānta philosophy 2: **VEDIC**

**Ved-dā** or **Ved-dah** \və-də\ *n* [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter] (1681): a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

**Ved-dold** \və-dōld\ *n* (1928): a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as wavy to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — **Veddold** *adj* **ve-dette** or **vi-dette** \vī-det\ *n* [F, fr. *le vedette*, alter. of *vellette* prob. fr. *Sp vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. *L vigilare* to wake, watch, fr. *vigil* awake — more at **VIGIL**] (ca. 1611): a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

**Ve-dīc** \vī-dīk\ *adj* (1848): of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 1500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

**vee** \və\ *n* (ca. 1883): 1: something shaped like the letter V 2: the letter v

**vee-jay** \və-jā\ *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981): an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

**veena** var of **VINA**

**veep** \vəp\ *n* [fr. *v. p.* (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949): **VICE PRESIDENT**

**veer** \vīr\ *v* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c): to let out (as a rope)

**veer** \vīr\ *v* [ME *veren*, fr. MF *vire*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL *vibrare*, alter. of *L vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at **VIBRATE**] (15c): 1: to change direction or course (the economy veered sharply downward) 2: of the wind: to shift in a clockwise direction — compare **BACK** 3: to wear ship ~ *v*: to direct to a different course; **specif**: **WEAR** 7 *syn* see **SWERVE** — **veering-ly** \vī-ŋ-lē\ *adv*

**veer** *n* (ca. 1611): a change in course or direction (a veer to the right)

**vee-ry** \vī-ŕ-\ *n*, *pl* **veeries** [prob. limit.] (1838): an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

**veg** \vɛj\ *n*, *pl* **veg** (1918) *chiefly Brit*: **VEGETABLE**

**Ve-ga** \və-gə, -gə-\ *n* [NL, fr. Ar (*al-Nasr*) *al-Wāq*, lit., the falling (vulture)] (ca. 1638): the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

**veg-an** \və-gən\ *also* \və-also\ *ve-jən* or \-jan\ *n* [by contr. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944): a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; *also*: one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — **vegan** *adj* — **veg-an-ism** \və-gən-iz-əm, -və-gə-\ *n*

**veg-e-ta-ble** \vɛj-tə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. L, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at **WAKE**] (15c): 1: of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants 2: consisting of plants: **VEGETATIONAL** 2: made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (~ soup) (~ fat) 3: resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

**vegetable** *n* (15c): 1: **PLANT** 1b 2: a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; *also*: such an edible part 3: a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

**vegetable ivory** *n* (1842): 1: the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2: **IVORY NUT**

**vegetable marrow** *n* (ca. 1816) *chiefly Brit*: any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

**vegetable oil** *n* (1765): an oil of plant origin; *esp*: a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

**vegetable oyster** *n* (ca. 1818): **SALISIFY**

**vegetable pear** *n* (1887): **CHAYOTE**

**vegetable wax** *n* (1815): a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

**veg-e-ta-bly** \vɛj-tə-blē\ *adv* or *adj* (1651): in the manner of or like a vegetable

**veg-e-tal** \və-jə-təl\ *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2: **VEGETATIVE** 3: of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (~ blastomeres)

**vegetal pole** *n* (1896): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see **BLASTULA** illustration

**veg-e-tar-i-an** \və-jə-tər-ē-ən\ *n* [*vegetable* + *-arian*] (1839): 1: one who believes in or practices vegetarianism 2: **HERBIVORE**

**vegetarian** *adj* (1849): 1: of or relating to vegetarians 2: consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (~ diet)

**veg-e-tar-i-an-ism** \və-jə-tər-ē-iz-əm\ *n* (ca. 1851): the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

**veg-e-tate** \və-jə-tāt\ *vb* -tāt-ed; -tāt-ing [ML *vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] *vi* (1605): 1: to grow in the manner of a plant; *also*: to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths 2: to produce vegetation 2: to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ *vi*: to establish vegetation in or on

**veg-e-ta-tion** \və-jə-tā-shən\ *n* (1564): 1: the act or process of vegetating 2: inert existence 3: plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4: an abnormal growth upon a body part (fibrin ~ on the mitral valve) — **veg-e-ta-tion-al** \-shən-əl, -shə-nəl\ *adj*

**veg-e-ta-tive** \və-jə-tā-tiv\ *adj* (14c): 1: (1) growing or having the power of growing (2) of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) b: promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) c: of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2: relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation 3: of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom 4: **AUTONOMIC** 1 b: characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5: **VEGETABLE** 3 — **veg-e-ta-tive-ly** *adv* — **veg-e-ta-tive-ness** *n*

**ve-ge-tē** \və-jēt\ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at **VEGETABLE**] (1639) *archaic*: **LIVELY, HEALTHY**

**veg-gle** *also* **veg-lo** \və-jəl\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955): 1: **VEGETABLE** 2 *slang*: **VEGETARIAN**

**veggie burger** *n* (1972): a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; *also*: a sandwich containing such a patty

**veg out** \vɛj-ə\ *vi* **vegged out**; **veg-ging out** [short for *vegetate*] (1980): to spend time idly or passively

**ve-he-mence** \və-ə-mən(t)s\ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being vehement: **INTENSITY**

**ve-he-ment** \və-ə-mənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement*, *vehemens*, *vemens*] (15c): marked by forceful energy: **POWERFUL** (a ~ wind); as a: intensely emotional: **IMPASSIONED**, **FERVID** (~ patriotism) b (1): deeply felt (~ suspicion) (2): forcibly expressed (~ denunciations) c: bitterly antagonistic (~ debate) — **ve-he-ment-ly** *adv*

**ve-hi-cle** \və-ə-kəl\ *also* \və-hī-kəl\ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at **WAY**] (1612): 1: an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered 2: any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 3: an agent of transmission: **CARRIER** 3: a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); *esp*: a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 4: a means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s); as a: **MO-TOR VEHICLE** b: a piece of mechanized equipment

**ve-hi-cu-lar** \və-hī-kyə-lər\ *adj* (1616): 1: of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles 2: transported by vehicle c: caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (~ homi-cide) 2: serving as a vehicle

**V-8** \və-8\ *n* (1930): an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; *also*: an automobile having such an engine

**veil** \vā\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *veil*, *velle*, fr. L *vela*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c): 1: a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; *specif*: the outer covering of a nun's headpiece 2: a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress (a bridal ~) c: any of various liturgical cloths; *esp*: a cloth used to cover the chalice 2: the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the veil* 3: a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4: something that resembles a veil (~ of stars); *esp*: something that hides or obscures like a veil (lift the ~ of secrecy) 5: a covering body part or membrane: as a: **VELUM** b: **CAUL**

**veil** *v* (14c): to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *vi*: to put on or wear a veil

**veiled** \vāld\ *adj* (14c): 1: a: having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (~ hat) b: characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2: obscured as if by a veil: **DISGUISED** (~ threats)

**veil-ing** \vā-līŋ\ *n* (13c): 1: any of various light sheer fabrics 2: **VEIL**

**vein** \vān\ *n* [ME *veine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c): 1: a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice b (1): **LOBE** 2 (2): a bed of useful mineral matter c: **LOBE** 3 2: **BLOOD VESSEL**; *esp*: any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3: any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf b: any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 4: something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); *specif*: a wavy variegation (as in marble) 5: a distinctive mode of expression: **STYLE** (stories in a romantic ~) b: a distinctive element or quality: **STRAIN** (introduced a welcome ~ of humor) c: a line of thought or action (renewed discussion along the same ~) 6: a special aptitude (inherited an artistic ~) b: a usu. transitory and casually attained mood c: top form (thou troublest me; I am not in the ~) — **Shak** — **vein-af** \vā-n-af\ *adj*

**vein** *v* (1502): to pattern with or as if with veins

**veined** \vānd\ *adj* (ca. 1529): patterned with or as if with veins: having venation: **STREAKED** (~ leaf) (~ marble) (~ cheese)

**vein-er** \vā-nər\ *n* (1895): a small V gouge used in wood carving

**vein-ing** \vā-nīŋ\ *n* (1826): a pattern of veins: **VENATION**

**vein-let** \vān-lət\ *n* (1831): a small vein

**veiny** \vā-nē\ *adj* (1611): full of veins: noticeably veined (~ hands)

**vel** *abbr* velocity

**ve-la-men** \və-lā-mən\ *n*, *pl* **ve-lam-i-na** \və-lā-mə-nə\ [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882): the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere

**ve-lar** \və-lər\ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876): 1: formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (the ~ *vk* of *Velvet*) 2: of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — **velar** *n*

**ve-lar-i-um** \vī-lər-ē-əm\ *n*, *pl* **-la** \-ē-ə\ [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834): an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater

**ve-lar-i-za-tion** \və-lə-rə-zā-shən\ *n* (1915): 1: the quality or state of being velarized 2: an act or instance of velarizing

**ve-lar-ize** \və-lə-rīz\ *v* -līz-ed; -līz-ing (1915): to modify (as the *vk* of *Velvet*) by a simultaneous velar articulation

**Vel-cro** \vɛl-(j)krō\ *trademark* — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops

**veld** or **veldt** \velt, felt\ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OE *feld* field] (1835): a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees

**vel-ig-er** \və-lə-jər, -və-\ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-ger* bearing, fr. *gerere* to bear] (1877): a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum

**vel-le-i-ty** \və-lē-ə-tē, -və-\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at **WILL**] (1618): 1: the lowest degree of volition 2: a slight wish or tendency: **INCLINATION**

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